

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 2-4, 6-10, 14-16, and 21-29 are now pending. In this Reply, Applicant has cancelled originally-filed claims 1, 5, 11-13, and 17-20, has added new claims 21-29, and has amended the dependency of originally-filed claims 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, and 16.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant submits that the cancellation of claim 19 in this Reply has rendered the basis for rejection set forth on page 2 of the Office Action moot. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Flowers, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent 5,533,174). This rejection, insofar as it pertain to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Newly-added independent claim 21 is directed to a font sharing system in which data can be communicated between a client computer and a server. The client computer comprises: means for selecting a font; font preview data storage determination means for determining whether font preview data, which is for displaying a representative character having a font selected by the font selecting means, has been stored; display control means for controlling a display device so as to display, on a display screen, the representative character represented by the font preview data in

response to a determination by the font preview data storage determination means that the font preview data has been stored; and means for transmitting to the server a request to transmit the font preview data in response to a determination by the font preview data storage determination means that the font preview data has not been stored. The server includes font preview data transmitting means for transmitting the font preview data to the client computer in response to the font preview data transmission request transmitted from the client computer.

Thus, in the present invention defined by newly-added independent claim 21, if font preview data (which is for displaying a representative character having a selected font) is stored in the client computer, the representative character represented by the font preview data is displayed. On the other hand, when the font preview data is not stored in the client computer, a request for the font preview data is transmitted to the server. As a result, the font preview data is transmitted to the client computer from the server so that the representative character represented by the font preview data of the selected font can be displayed. This ensures that a representative character image for the selected font can be viewed by the user of the client computer in advance.

Although Flowers discloses a network font server, Applicant respectfully submits that Flowers does not teach or suggest the feature of using font preview data to display a representative character so that the user can view a representative font in advance. At least for this reason, Applicant submits that newly-added independent claim 21 defines over Flowers. It should be readily apparent that newly-added independent claims 23-29 likewise define over Flowers based on similar reasoning.

Presently-pending dependent claims 2-4, 6-10, 14-16, and 22 are allowable for depending from an allowable base claim.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that could be resolved in the present application, we respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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Attachment: Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 5, 11, 12, 13, and 17-20 have been cancelled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) The system according to claim 22 [1], wherein said client computer further includes means for transmitting, to said server, size designating data representing the size of a character specified by said character specifying data; and

 said retrieval means of said server retrieves, from said first character image data storage means, character image data expressing a character, which has been specified by the character specifying data and has a size that has been designated by the size designating data, as an image in such a manner that the specified character will have a font specified by the font specifying data.

6. (Amended) The system according to claim 22 [1], wherein said transmitting means of said client computer transmits, to the server, character string specifying data for specifying a combination of a plurality of characters constructing a character string, and font specifying data for specifying fonts of the characters constructing the character string;

 said receiving means of said server receives the character string data and the font specifying data transmitted from said transmitting means; and

 said retrieval means of said server retrieves, from said first character image data storage means, character image data expressing characters as images, wherein each of these characters, which construct the character string specified by the character string data, has a font that has been specified by the font specifying data.

7. (Amended) The system according to claim 22 [1], wherein said client computer further includes style data transmitting means for transmitting, to the server, character style designating data for designating style of a character specified by the character specifying data; and

 said server includes:

 designated character-style retrieval means for retrieving, from said first character image data storage means, designated-style character image data expressing, as an image, a character of a style designated by the character style designating data transmitted from said style data transmitting means;

 designated-style character image data generating means for generating the designated-style character image data in response to a situation where the designated-style character image data is not found by said designated character-style retrieval means; and

 designated-style character image data transmitting means for transmitting, to said client computer, the designated-style character image data generated by said designated-style character image data generating means or the designated-style character image data found by said designated character-style retrieval means.

9. (Amended) The system according to claim 22 [1], wherein said client computer further includes character image data storage means for storing the character image data transmitted from said character image data transmitting means.

10. (Amended) The system according to claim 22 [1], wherein said server includes:

a printing device; and

means for generating new character image data, from the character image data that has been designated by said character image data generating means, so as to obtain a character image having a resolution suited to the resolution of said printing device.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 25 [13], further comprising the steps of:

transmitting, from the client computer to the server, size designating data representing the size of a character specified by [said] character specifying data; and

retrieving, at the server, character image data expressing a character, which has been specified by the character specifying data and has a size that has been designated by the size designating data, as an image in such a manner that the specified character will have a font specified by [the] font specifying data.

16. (Amended) The method according to claim 25 [13], further comprising a step of transmitting, from the client computer to the server, character string specifying data for specifying a combination of a plurality of characters constructing a character string, and font specifying data for specifying fonts of the characters constructing the character string;

receiving, at the server, the character string data and the font specifying data transmitted from the client computer; and

retrieving, at the server, character image data expressing characters as images, wherein each of these characters, which construct the character string specified by the character string data, has a font that has been specified by the font specifying data.

New claims 21-29 have been added.